

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. In the Office Action of August 14, 2003, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Rejected claims 1-3, 9-13, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jackson et al.* in view of *Katz*.
- B.) Rejected claims 4-8 and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jackson et al.* in view of *Katz* and further in view of *Nirschl et al.*

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and address the Examiner's disposition as follows:

- A.) Rejection of claims 1-3, 9-13, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Katz* in view of *Twynam et al.*:

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection.

Applicants' claims 1, 9, 10, and 19 have each been amended to cancel --a TiON film,-- from the claimed Markush groups.

Independent claims 1, 9, 10, and 19, each as amended, each claim a metal nitride film that is selected from the group consisting of a WSiN film, a TaN film, a TaSiN film, and a TiSiN film.

This is clearly unlike *Jackson et al.* in view of *Katz*. As stated by the Examiner, *Jackson et al.* fails to teach Applicants' claimed metal nitride film selected from the group of claimed materials. The Examiner combines *Jackson et al.* with *Katz* in an attempt to disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed metal nitride film, however, Applicants respectfully submits that *Jackson et al.* in view of *Katz* still fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' claims 1, 9, 10, and 19.

Katz discloses a TiON film 13. Unlike Applicants' claims 1, 9, 10, and 19, as amended, nowhere does *Katz* disclose or suggest using a WSiN film, a TaN film, a TaSiN film, or a TiSiN film. Therefore, *Jackson et al.* in view of *Katz* still fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' claims 1, 9, 10, and 19.

Claims 2-3 and 11-13 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 9, 10, or 19 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1, 9, 10, and 19 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request it be withdrawn.

B.) Rejection of claims 4-8 and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Jackson et al.* in view of *Katz* and further in view of *Nirschl et al.*:

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection.

Applicants' independent claims 1 and 10 are allowable over *Jackson et al.* in view of *Katz* as discussed above. *Nirschl et al.* still fails to disclose or suggest a metal nitride film that is selected from the group consisting of a WSiN film, a TaN film, a TaSiN film, and a TiSiN film. Accordingly, *Jackson et al.* in view of *Katz* and further in view of *Nirschl et al.* still fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' claims 1 and 10.

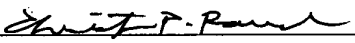
Claims 4-8 and 14-18 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 10 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claims 1 and 10 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection has been overcome and request it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

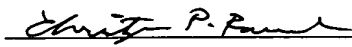
In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1-19 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 14, 2003.

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